

Measles Emergency EPI Update #2 Thursday, May 26, 2011

Measles update:

The number of confirmed cases of measles in Iowa remains at one. However, persons with exposure on May 11, 2011 (airline and airport) could become ill anytime between May 18 and June 1, 2011; and persons with exposure on May 14, 2011 (clinic and hospital) could become ill anytime between May 21 and June 4, 2011.

Revisiting the measles vaccination schedule

The routine childhood schedule for the MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) vaccine is one dose at 12 to 15 months of age and a second dose at 4 to 6 years of age (prior to school entry).

We are not recommending any routine changes to this schedule for children in Iowa at this time.

However, if a child has a specific risk that increases their chance of exposure to measles (i.e. they are traveling to a country with endemic measles such as India), the following modifications of this schedule can be considered:

- 1) A dose of MMR can be given at 6 to 12 months of age to provide protection (maternal antibodies probably are no longer present, but child has not reached 12 months of age when the first MMR is typically given). However, this vaccine may not provide long term protection and will NOT count towards the two doses needed for school entry; thus, two more doses will need to be given - one at 12 to 15 months of age and one at 4 to 6 years of age.
- 2) A child that has already received one dose of MMR after 12 months of age can receive the second dose any time after that, as long as 28 days have passed since the first dose. These two doses will provide the child with a 99 percent chance of lifelong protection, and will count as the two doses required for school entry.

How to see possible measles case safely

When examining a patient with potential measles, healthcare providers must make arrangements to see the patient in a manner that does not expose other patients, visitors or staff.

For example, 1) see the patient at the patient's home, 2) see the patient outside the ER or clinic in the patient's car, 3) see the patient at the end of the day when no one else is around and no one will use the facility until the next day, or 4) have the patient come in a rarely used back door and seen in a nearby exam room, then ensure that the door, hallway and exam room are not used again for two hours.

Do not allow patients with possible measles to sit in a waiting room or other public area. If measles is suspected, draw serology (as well collect NP and throat swabs) in the home, car, or exam room – do not send the patient to the laboratory or other areas.

Immediately call either your local public health department or IDPH at 800-362-2736 and arrange to send specimens for emergency testing to SHL. Tell patient to go directly home and stay home until contacted by public health officials.

Also, all Iowa health care providers and their staff should have had two documented doses of MMR or serology evidence of immunity to measles. In addition, during routine office visits assure that all patients' MMR immunizations are up-to-date.

For more information about measles visit

www.idph.state.ia.us/idph_universalhelp/main.aspx?system=IdphEpiManual&context=Measlesfactsheet or www.cdc.gov/measles/ .

Reminder: measles reported in Central Iowa

A confirmed case of measles has occurred in a Dallas County resident. This situation is being treated as a public health emergency because measles spreads easily and can cause serious illness and death.

Any individuals who visited the following locations at the listed times should check to make sure they have received two MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccines. Those older than their mid-50s and know that they had measles as a child do not need to be vaccinated. If you have been at these places during these times and have not received two doses of MMR (or are not sure if you have received two MMRs), you should contact your county health department or health care provider to be vaccinated.

May 11

American Airlines Flight AA3965

Departed Chicago O'Hare: 11:55 a.m.

Arrived Des Moines International Airport: 1:05 p.m.

Des Moines International Airport - main terminal and baggage area

1:00 to 3:45 p.m.

May 14

Mercy Central Pediatric Clinic

330 Laurel St, Ste 2100, Des Moines Iowa

10:00 a.m. to close (offices closed at 2:00 p.m.)

Mercy Medical Center - Main Entrance, including waiting room, registration, outpatient testing and blood draw station areas

1111 6th Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa

Noon to 3:00 p.m.

The symptoms of measles include any or all of the following: fever, cough, red/pink eyes, runny nose and a rash. Anyone, regardless of age, who has not had measles or has not adequately responded to two doses of MMR (less than one percent), can get measles if exposed. Measles can cause serious illness, pneumonia, deafness, and

brain inflammation. Two to three people out of 1,000 who get measles die from the disease. It is easily spread through the air and there is no treatment for the illness, so prevention is critical.

All Iowans should check their personal and family immunization records to make sure their measles vaccinations are up-to-date. To be fully vaccinated, an individual should have had two doses of the measles vaccine, or have had measles in the past.

Have a healthy and happy and hopefully measles-free week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health

800-362-273